

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17 and 22 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please amend the remaining claims, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A print control method for performing print processing in an optimal operation mode which is automatically determined from among a plurality of operation modes in response to a print request from an application program, said print control method comprising:

a print data generating step of generating print data in an intermediate condition and temporarily storing the generated print data, wherein said print data generating step is responsive to the print request from the application program, and wherein the intermediate condition is independent of a particular page description language;

a print data analyzing step of analyzing the temporarily stored generated print data;

a determination step of determining the operation mode from among the plurality of operation modes based on a selection criterion and based on the analysis in said print data analyzing step;

a print processing step of processing the temporarily stored generated print data in accordance with the determined operation mode;

~~a display step of displaying an evaluation screen for a response-acquiring step in which, by querying evaluation of a printing speed for the print processing or for querying the quality of print produced by the print processing, a response is acquired;~~
~~an evaluation acquisition step of acquiring an evaluation result input by a user via the evaluation screen displayed in said displaying step; and~~
~~an updating a determination step of updating the selection criterion in which, when the print processing is performed in response to a later print request, an operation mode is determined based on the response evaluation result acquired in said response-acquiring evaluation acquisition step.~~

2. and 3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A print control method according to ~~Claim 3~~
Claim 1, further comprising:

a classification step ~~for of~~ outputting classification data by analyzing the temporarily stored generated print data so that the print data is classified into one of classifications based on the type of the print data; and

a storage step in which, based on the ~~response evaluation result~~ acquired in said ~~response-acquiring evaluation acquisition~~ step and the classification data output in said classification step, a ~~printing mode-selecting the selection~~ criterion used when the print processing is performed in response to said later print request is determined for each of the classifications, and the determined selecting criterion is stored is updated.

5. (Currently Amended) A print control method according to Claim 4, wherein, in said determination step, ~~the determined selecting criterion stored in said storage step is used as a criterion for, by comparing each of the classifications with the print data, determining an~~ determines the operation mode used when the print processing is performed on said print data to be printed also based on the classification data.

6. (Currently Amended) A print control method according to ~~Claim 2~~ Claim 1, wherein, in said response acquiring step, by using a said displaying step displays a plurality of options to query the evaluation of the printing speed for the print processing or the quality of print produced by the print processing, and wherein said evaluation acquisition step acquires a selected option is acquired as the response evaluation result.

7. (Currently Amended) A print control method according to Claim 1, further comprising a test-print designation step for designating a test print in which a process of querying the evaluation of the print is performed, wherein, when the test print is designated in said test-print designation step, the evaluation of the print is ~~queried~~ acquired in said ~~response acquiring evaluation~~ acquisition step.

8. (Currently Amended) A print data processing apparatus for performing print processing in an ~~optimal~~ operation mode which is automatically determined from

among a plurality of operation modes in response to a print request from an application program, said print data processing apparatus comprising:

print data generating means for generating print data in an intermediate condition and temporarily storing the generated print data, wherein said print data generating means responds to the print request from the application program, and wherein the intermediate condition is independent of a particular page description language;

print data analyzing means for analyzing the temporarily stored generated print data;

determining means for determining the operation mode from among the plurality of operation modes based on a selection criterion and based on the analysis in said print data analyzing means;

print processing means for processing the temporarily stored generated print data in accordance with the determined operation mode;

displaying means for displaying an evaluation screen for response acquiring means for acquiring a response by querying the user of said print data processing apparatus about evaluation of a printing speed for the print processing or for querying the user about the quality of print produced by the print processing means;

evaluation acquisition means for acquiring an evaluation result input by a user via the evaluation screen displayed by said displaying means; and

updating determination means for updating the selection criterion in which, when the print processing is performed in response to a later print request, the operation

~~mode of said print data processing apparatus is determined based on the response~~
~~evaluation response~~ acquired by said ~~response acquiring~~ evaluation acquisition means.

9. and 10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A print data processing apparatus according to
~~Claim 10~~ Claim 8, further comprising:

classification means for classifying the print data into one of classifications
based on the type of the print data; and

storage means in which, based on the ~~response evaluation result~~ acquired by
said ~~response acquiring evaluation acquisition~~ means and the classification data obtained
by said classification means, a ~~printing mode selecting the selection~~ criterion used when
the print processing is performed in response to said later print request is determined for
each of the classifications, and the determined selecting criterion is stored is updated.

12. (Currently Amended) A print data processing apparatus according to
Claim 11, wherein the ~~determined selecting criterion stored by said storage means is used~~
~~as a criterion for, by comparing each of the classifications with the print data, an~~
~~determining means determines the operation mode used when the print processing is~~
~~performed on said print data to be printed~~ also based on the classification data.

13. (Currently Amended) A print data processing apparatus according to ~~Claim 9~~ Claim 8, wherein said ~~response-acquiring means uses displaying means displays~~ a plurality of options to query the evaluation of the printing speed for the print processing or the quality of print produced by the print processing, and wherein said evaluation acquisition means acquires a selected option as the ~~response-evaluation result~~.

14. (Currently Amended) A print data processing apparatus according to Claim 8, further comprising test-print designation means for designating a test print in which a process of querying the evaluation of the print is performed, wherein, when the test print is designated by said test-print designation means, the evaluation of the print is ~~queried-acquired~~ by said response-acquiring-evaluation acquisition means.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer-executable print control program stored on a computer-readable memory medium, said print control program for controlling a print data processing apparatus to execute print processing in an optimal operation mode which is automatically determined from among a plurality of operation modes in response to a print request from an application program, said print control program comprising:
a print data generating step of generating print data in an intermediate condition and temporarily storing the generated print data, wherein said print data generating step is responsive to the print request from the application program, and

wherein the intermediate condition is independent of a particular page description

language;

a print data analyzing step of analyzing the temporarily stored generated

print data;

a determination step of determining the operating mode from among the

plurality of operation modes based on a selection criterion and based on the analysis in said

print data analyzing step;

a print processing step of processing the temporarily stored generated print

data in accordance with the determined operation mode;

a displaying step of displaying an evaluation screen for a response-acquiring

step in which, by querying evaluation of a printing speed for the print processing or for

querying the quality of print produced by the print processing, a response is acquired;

an evaluation acquisition step of acquiring an evaluation result input by a

user via the evaluation screen displayed in said displaying step; and

an updating a determination step in which, when the print processing is

performed in response to a later print request, the operation mode is determined for

updating the selection criterion based on the response the evaluation result acquired in said

response acquiring evaluation acquisition step.

16. and 17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A print control program according to ~~Claim 17~~
Claim 15, further comprising:

a classification step ~~for~~ of outputting classification data by analyzing the
temporarily stored generated print data so that the print data is classified into one of
classifications based on the type of the print data; and

a storage step in which, based on the ~~response evaluation result~~ acquired in
said ~~response acquiring evaluation acquisition~~ step and the classification data output in said
classification step, ~~a printing mode selecting the selection criterion used when the print~~
~~processing is performed in response to said later print request is determined for each of the~~
~~classifications, and the determined selecting criterion is stored~~ is updated.

19. (Currently Amended) A print control program according to Claim 18,
wherein, ~~in said determination step, the determined selecting criterion stored in said storage~~
~~step is used as a criterion for, by comparing each of the classifications with the print data,~~
~~determining an~~ determines the operation mode used ~~when the print processing is performed~~
~~on said print data to be printed also based on the classification data~~

20. (Currently Amended) A print control program according to ~~Claim 16~~
Claim 15, wherein, ~~in said response acquiring step, by using a said displaying step displays~~
a plurality of options to query the evaluation of the printing speed for the print processing
or the quality of print produced by the print processing, and wherein said evaluation
acquisition step acquires a selected option is acquired as the response evaluation result.

21. (Currently Amended) A print control program according to Claim 15, further comprising a test-print designation step for designating a test print in which a process of querying the evaluation of the print is performed,

wherein, when the test print is designated in said test-print designation step, the evaluation of the print is ~~queried~~ acquired in said ~~response-acquiring~~ evaluation acquisition step.

22. (Cancelled)